

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Action Industries

Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology

#### Action Industries Reduces Set up Time with 5S

##### Client Profile:

Action Industries manufactures precision aluminum, plastic and ferrous metal parts primarily for the semiconductor and aerospace markets. Founded in 1981, the family owned business employs 20 people at its facility in Arvada, Colorado.

##### Situation:

Action Industries found that although they were able to meet customer high-volume demands on time, they spent valuable time looking for tools and materials to complete their custom jobs. They needed help in organizing their workplace. Bill Bathurst, President of Action Industries, turned to his network of local manufacturers to find the best manufacturing resources for continuous improvement, and three colleagues referred him to the Colorado Association for Manufacturing and Technology (CAMT), a NIST MEP network affiliate.

##### Solution:

CAMT took Action Industries through a 5S project of its tool crib. The 5S philosophy focuses on simplifying the work environment, reducing waste, and improving quality and safety through the implementation of five steps: sorting, setting in order, shining, standardizing, and sustaining improvements. The CAMT instructor started with a simple exercise of asking the tool crib manager to find two random tools known to be in the tool crib. It took the employee 20 minutes to find the tools. After the training and application of the 5S system to the tool crib, it took the tool crib manager less than one minute to find the randomly-specified tools. What occurred in between was a revamp of tool sorting and reorganization, including disposing of unnecessary tools, labeling unidentified tools and assigning a home when not in use, and placing them in easily accessible locations. With visual labels to ensure every tool had a place, as well as audit sheets to regularly monitor the system, Action Industries has been able to sustain 5S for the long term.

##### Results:

- \* Retained sales of \$10,000.
- \* Realized \$5,250 in cost savings.
- \* Investment impact of \$19,750.
- \* Created/retained 2 jobs.

##### Testimonial:

"The implementation of a 5S project through CAMT profoundly enhanced the organization of our tool crib which, in turn, significantly reduced our setup time and job costs."

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Bill Bathurst, Jr., President